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GMA International Workshop

A regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Comments by Japan on the draft document prepared by the Group of Experts (A/AC.271/WP.1)

1. Japan hopes that the Global Marine Assessment (GMA) will contribute to better coordination of existing marine assessment programmes through, as its primary purpose, the facilitation of systematized global syntheses of the state of marine environment.

2. The first point Japan would like to emphasize is that it is necessary to ensure that there is no duplication between the GMA process and the roles and mandates of existing international organizations. Many competent international organizations have already conducted marine environment assessments in various forms. They have valuable experience and have covered a wide range of scopes and fields.

3. The second point Japan would like to stress is that we should utilize the existing roles and work of international organizations to the maximum possible extent. There should be no need to devise any supervisory scheme that would override the current United Nations system and the regional organizations. For the upcoming meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, Japan would like to propose that the meeting again confirm the goals and scope of the GMA process and discuss mainly the process of its "start-up" phase.

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